

12 towns and cities to benefit from programme to bring disused heritage buildings back to life

12/12/2023



Georgian houses in Sunderland after restoration by the Tyne and Wear Preservation Trust. Our £5 million partnership with The Architectural Heritage Fund will support local organisations from Cornwall to Caernarfon and Derry/Londonderry to Aberdeenshire.

Empowering social enterprises and charities to breathe new life into disused and at risk heritage buildings is at the core of the Heritage Development Trust programme. Working together with The Architectural Heritage Fund (AHF), we [invited organisations to join the programme](#) earlier this year.

Boosting capacity of built heritage organisations

The 12 organisations will receive funding to scale up their operations to repair, restore and re-use at-risk buildings in their local areas. Guidance from consultants and mentors will aid their skills and knowledge development, alongside peer-to-peer support to expand their networks.

This partnership with AHF supports communities, charities and heritage groups to develop plans to transform at-risk historic buildings – boosting pride in place, connection to the past and investing in the future.

Eilish McGuinness, Chief Executive of The National Lottery Heritage Fund

UK-wide spread of funding

Organisations receiving support through the programme include **Medway Council in Chatham, Kent**, which plans to transform a Grade II listed former hospital mortuary into a new community space, and **Inner City Trust in Derry/Londonderry** which intends to restore the former home of one of the world's oldest department stores.

The full list of successful organisations is:

- **Medway Council** in Chatham, Kent
- **Inner City Trust** in Derry, Londonderry
- **Glasgow Building Preservation Trust** in Glasgow
- **Culture Trust Luton** in Luton, Bedfordshire
- **Haverfordwest Heritage Ltd** in Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire
- **Heeley Trust** in Heeley, South Yorkshire
- **Fife Historic Buildings Trust** in Kinghorn, Fife
- **Galeri Caernarfon** in Gwynedd, Caernarfon
- **Leicester City Council** in Leicester, Leicestershire
- **North East Scotland PT** in Portsoy, Aberdeenshire
- **Redruth Revival CIC** in Redruth, Cornwall
- **Re-form Heritage** in Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire



This Grade II listed former bank in Bacup, Lancashire was restored as a co-working hub and residential apartments.

Proven successes through pilot programme

The Heritage Development Trust programme is scaling up its work across the UK following a successful pilot programme, which demonstrated how local communities benefit from regenerating heritage buildings.

Last year, not-for-profit [Valley Heritage in Bacup](#), Lancashire restored an empty Victorian bank building into a new co-working space and housing for homeless young people.

In Sunderland, [Tyne & Wear Building Preservation Trust](#) transformed a row of Georgian merchants' houses once threatened with demolition into a vibrant music venue, coffee shop and bar.

Protecting architectural heritage and creating homes, workplaces and community spaces

Eilish McGuinness, Chief Executive of The National Lottery Heritage Fund, said: "As the UK's largest funder of heritage, we collaborate with organisations who share our vision for heritage to be valued, cared for and sustained for everyone, now and in the future.

"This partnership with AHF supports communities, charities and heritage groups to develop plans for the transformation of at-risk historic buildings – boosting pride in place, connection to the past and investing in the future."

Matthew Mckeague, Chief Executive of The Architectural Heritage Fund, said: "Bringing old buildings back into productive use will protect our country's rich architectural past while creating important new homes, workplaces and community venues."

Get inspiration for your heritage project

Browse through summaries and case studies of built heritage projects we've supported on our [areas, buildings and monuments](#) page.

You might also be interested in...

Bourn Mill. Image: Matthew Power Photography.

News

[National Lottery support saving at-risk heritage sites for 25 years](#)

This year marks the 25th anniversary of Historic England's Heritage at Risk Register. Over the past quarter of a century, Heritage Fund support has helped save some of the nation's most-loved heritage from the list.

09/11/2023

The museum offers insight into the experiences of prisoners from Victorian times to the modern day. Photo: West Midlands Police Museum.

Projects

The Lock-Up: Unlocking History at West Midlands Police Museum

Our funding has enabled the museum to move into a Victorian custody block, the last of its kind in the country.

27/02/2018

Stories

Restoration begins at iconic 1930s Saltdean Lido

A £7.5million restoration project has begun to bring Saltdean Lido back to its former glory, part-funded by The National Lottery Heritage Fund.